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City Welcomes Junior Hockey League

Russian Junior National Team to Visit Troy in September

For Immediate Release
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(May 28, 2004- TROY)- The City of Troy and Mayor Harry Tutunjian are set to welcome a new hockey team to the area- the Hudson Valley Eagles.

The Eagles are a Junior "B" Level team that will make its debut in Troy later this year, using the Knickerbacker Ice Rink as its home ice. Training Camp for the Eagles will begin in August, with players coming from around the country, including Alaska, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Pittsburgh, and Long Island. The team will play in the Atlantic Hockey League.

Junior Hockey League programs provide players with the opportunity to train in a professional and safe environment, receive optimum exposure in an ideal training environment that will develop professional and collegiate players. Junior teams are for players 20 years old and younger.

"This is great news for the City and for the Knickerbacker Ice Rink, which is a great facility that we need to use to its full potential," Tutunjian said. "We are excited to have the Eagles in Troy and wish them the best of luck during their upcoming season."

The Eagles will practicing three to five times per week at the Knick, and will then participate in a 60-game schedule this fall.

The highlight of the new endeavor will come in September, when the Eagles host an exhibition with the Russian Junior National Team during the Uncle Sam Celebration in Lansingburgh.

"That is a high level of exposure for our City and the Eagles," Tutunjian said. "We look forward to hosting the Russian Team and showing them what Troy is all about."

In addition to the Eagles beginning play there are several other exciting activities taking place at the Knick.

Through June 16th, the City is hosting a Woman's Hockey Clinic with instruction from high school, college, and national development camp instructors, including Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Men's Hockey Coach Dan Fridgen. The clinic takes place on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:50 p.m. and costs \$20 per session.

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The City is also set to begin the Capital District Summer High School/Midget Hockey League, which will take place from July 12th through August 26th for any high school or midget age players. Teams will play a 15-game schedule, with a championship playoff tournament. Games will be played Monday through Thursday at 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 9 p.m.

Applications can be picked up at the Knickerbacker Arena, or those interested can call Tim Flanigan at 279-0172.

Finally, the Knick also hosts birthday parties for kids during the summer. The cost is \$25 for three hours of party room usage, and an additional \$5 per child for skate rental and ice time. The Knick can also provide pizza for the party at a low cost. For more information call Irma Magee at 235-7761.